



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## 34<sup>th</sup> District Court holds Romulus pre-trial exams in VBT board room

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
 Independent Editor

Shortly after 9 a.m. Monday, 33<sup>rd</sup> District Court Chief Judge James K. Kersten convened the pretrial exams for seven Romulus criminal defendants in the Van Buren Township Board meeting room.

VBT Clerk Leon Wright said the 34<sup>th</sup> District Court asked to use the township meeting room because they needed a lot of space for the exams and the 34<sup>th</sup> District courtrooms were too small. The Romulus City Chambers also were too narrow.

Clerk Wright said the three VBT full-time elected officials agreed to let the court use the township facility for two full weeks to begin the Romulus police corruption preliminary exam.

Although at the beginning of the session, Judge Kersten and Prosecuting Attorney Lori Dawson suggested the pretrial exams for the seven defendants might take three or four full weeks of testimony, by the end of the day it was determined they would try to get it all done in two weeks, but they would start at 8:30 a.m. and run until 4:30 p.m. every weekday.

The defendants are Romulus police officers, the former police chief and his wife. Rather than use one of the 34<sup>th</sup> District Court judges, who have had contact with the defendants over the years, the visiting judge from Woodhaven was brought in.

There is no metal detector at the entrance to the VBT meeting room, but a bailiff carried a wand to use if he determines it is necessary. On Monday, the audience was sparse, but the front of the meeting area was wall-to-wall attorneys and defendants.

Long tables were lined with tightly placed chairs for the attorneys and their clients. Most clients had more than one attorney. At the far north end of the room, the prosecuting attorneys and Romulus Police Officers in Charge were seated. Behind them were camera crews from television

channels 4 and 7, with a few assorted reporters sprinkled throughout the room.

Twenty thousand pages of documents in binders were lined up on another table, as part of the evidence. The judge had a matching set of the documents lined up on the township board table to his right.

Prosecutor Dawson asked the television crews to blur out the faces and all of the journalists not to release the names of the Confidential Informants who will be testifying, for their own protection

*(continued on page 13)*

## VB School Board lays off another round of teachers, support staff

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
 Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on Monday, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education approved the layoff of 18 teachers and 11 support staff, with the announcement that other staff reductions are coming.

Trustee Sherry Frazier said she received an email that afternoon from Susan Duda Osborne, president of the Van Buren Education Association, asking the board to postpone the layoffs for two weeks until the union could discuss the action with the administration.

Board president Martha Toth said she was nervous about the board talking about labor matters and, "I do not want to provoke an unfair labor practice charge."

Shonta Langford-Green, the district's director of Human Resources, said once the administration determines the layoffs, the list is sent to the union and the administration responds to its concerns.

Frazier, a retired teacher, said the union

*(continued on page 16)*



*Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman*

On Saturday morning, a duckling rescue was under way in front of Douglas Carpet on Main Street, after about a dozen ducklings fell through the grate into a storm sewer. Don Mason of Douglas Carpet called Belleville Police after he and coworkers watched a female Mallard traveling back and forth across the street. They were afraid she would get run over. After Belleville fire fighters looked down the storm drain and saw the ducklings, the police and fire fighters took part in the rescue, with Van Buren Township Police Lt. Dennis Brooks giving advice. After the ten rescued ducklings were put in a box and released under a tree in the vacant lot at Third and Main streets, the ducklings tried to follow Lt. Brooks as he walked away. The mother duck sat on a nearby rooftop waiting to join her babies, who were wandering around in the grass. The last one was rescued from the pipe under the street when it finally came to one side and could be netted.



*Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman*

Last Friday, Al Ostrowski showed off two of the four orphaned, baby raccoons that he rescued from a bin at Bayloff in Van Buren Township. Ostrowski is a part-time animal control officer in Dearborn and runs his own business on the side, removing unwelcome animals of all kinds. He said he would take the raccoons to a wildlife rescue in Dearborn, where they will be taken care of and eventually released. "Baby raccoons are so cute, but when they get big they can cause a lot of damage," said Ostrowski, who is also a Van Buren Township Trustee.

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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## Vawters Team runs for reelection this fall in Sumpter Township

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township Supervisor Johnny Vawters is running for reelection this fall with the Democratic team that currently is running the township – with the addition of Don Swinson for trustee.

Trustee Linda Kennedy, who has been ill and has not attended a meeting in a year, will not be running for reelection. Swinson is taking her place on the team.

Besides Supervisor Vawters and newcomer for trustee Swinson, the team is made up of Clerk Clarence Hoffman, Jr., Treasurer John Morgan, and Trustees Alan Bates, Bill Hamm and Peggy Morgan.

Their names will be on the ballot for the Aug. 6 Primary and then, if successful, on the November General Election ballot. Democrats have reigned in Sumpter for some time, so if all the Vawters' Team members make it through the primary, their reelection is assured in November.

### Supervisor Johnny Vawters

Johnny Vawters has been supervisor since 2004, being selected twice by voters for the top job. He is married and the father of 10 adult children. He has lived in Sumpter for 22 years.

"I am sincere, dedicated, and have demonstrated my qualifications in leadership roles and am willing to share the responsibilities of the government of Sumpter Township with others," he said.

"My past accomplishments brought about a change for unity among all of our elected board members and administrative staffs.

"After high school graduation, I completed UAW Labor School courses, where I was trained in the skills of arbitration, negotiation, and handling grievance proceedings, all needed to perfect people skills.

"I am a 'people' person and an avid problem solver. I wish to continue to lend my skills to this township with the hope the citizens will be well-represented," he said.

### Clerk Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr.

Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr. is running for reelection as clerk. Hoffman has been a Sumpter resident for more than 50 years. He is married with four children. Hoffman retired from Ford Motor Co. after 44 years. He is a veteran, 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason, and a Shriner.

Hoffman has two dozen years of public service to Sumpter Township. He served as supervisor for four years, clerk for 14 years, treasurer for two years, and trustee for four years.

He was a member of the Constable Association, vice president of the Wayne Division, member of the Michigan Democratic Party, Sumpter Seniors, and member of the Planning Commission.

He is one of the founding members of Nourishing Gardens Food Bank and



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

The Vawters' Team held a get together on Sunday at Hidalgo's Mexican Restaurant in Belleville. From left in front are Clerk Clarence Hoffman, Supervisor Johnny Vawters, and Treasurer John Morgan. In back, from left, are Trustee candidate Don Swinson, Trustee Peggy Morgan, Trustee Bill Hamm, and Trustee Alan Bates.

Outreach Program, to help low-income Sumpter residents with emergency food and other services provided free of charge.

He is a member of CAF5, another program started to assist families in need. Over the years he has worked to bring many improvements to Sumpter.

Hoffman said the township needs to complete its Master Plan and seek out economic development to improve the tax base and keep the property tax as low as possible.

"I will focus on the spirit of what is best for Sumpter Township and continue to improve the services and activities for all Sumpter Township citizens," Hoffman said.

### Treasurer John W. Morgan

John W. Morgan is seeking reelection to the office of Sumpter Township Treasurer, a position he has held since 1982.

He was elected as Sumpter Township Trustee in 1978 and served in that position until 1982, when he was appointed treasurer. Then he was elected treasurer in 1984 and has been reelected in every election since then.

He is married to Beatrice and has two children, Jacqueline and Gary, and four grandchildren. He is a U.S. Army veteran.

Morgan has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Eastern Michigan University and a master of arts degree in Education Leadership from

EMU.

He is a retired school teacher from the Romulus Community Schools.

Morgan's goals include keeping Sumpter financially healthy, maintaining the rural flavor of the township for residents to raise their families, improve road maintenance, improve roadside ditch and drain cleanout, installing more warning sirens, and continuing to seek new businesses to move into the township.

### Trustee Alan D. Bates

Alan D. Bates is seeking re-election as trustee for a third term. He holds a degree in business administration from Eastern Michigan University and was self-employed as a residential builder for more than 30 years, retiring in 2005.

As a trustee he has served as liaison to the water department, served on the Tri-Community Library Committee and the District Library Committee, created and maintains the township website, and oversees videos on Channel 12.

Currently he is a member of the Sumpter Parks and Recreation Commission, the Sumpter Seniors, the Michigan Democratic Party, the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, and the Sumpter Democratic Caucus.

"I am proud to be a member of the present Board of Trustees (the Johnny Vawter's Team). We have worked together for eight years to balance the budget every

year, to bring in new business to Sumpter, to improve Graham and Banotai parks, and to make many other changes to improve Sumpter Township."

### Trustee William 'Bill' Hamm

William "Bill" Hamm, 58, is seeking reelection as township trustee.

He has been a resident of Sumpter for 11 years. He is married with four children.

Hamm has been an active UAW member for 37 years and is a member of UAW Retiree Chapter Local 900. He had management training at Ford Motor Co.

Hamm has been an active member of the Parks and Recreation Commission for five years and was voted co-chairman for two terms. He was co-chairman of the 2008 Sumpter Country Fest.

He is a state-certified, Sumpter Township Fire Fighter, state certified in Haz-Mat operations, took a Med Flight landing zone course, has Red Cross CPR/AED Rescuer training, and is Advanced PADI Diver certified.

He is a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, and the Democratic Caucus of Sumpter.

His goals include working with Wayne County on block grants for housing rehabilitation and park improvement, and seeking better roads, a decrease in blight and dangerous buildings, and increased public safety with more safety sirens.

### Trustee Peggy Morgan

Peggy Morgan is seeking reelection to her third term in office as trustee.

She has been married to Richard (Bud) Morgan for 27 years and they have lived in Sumpter since 1985. Bud retired from Ford Motor Co. after 30 years of service. They have two sons, Richard and David, and both serve in the military as MPs. They also have a grandson, Riley, age two.

Peggy Morgan has been a school bus driver for 17 years, so far, for the Van Buren Public Schools Transportation Department.

Before running for office, she served on several committees, including the Board of Review, Economic Development, and Police Building Committee.

Currently she is board liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission and board liaison to the Fire Department.

### Don Swinson

Don Swinson, 49, has announced his candidacy for trustee on The Vawters' Team.

Swinson has lived in and around Sumpter for most of his life. He is married to Holly and they have a daughter Selena, age 16.

Swinson is employed at Atchinson Ford and has been on the sales team for 15 years.

He currently is chairman of the Sumpter  
(continued on page 17)

# O P I N I O N S

## Editorial Sumpter Fire Fighters: Board stuck on 30-day punishment

Sumpter Fire Chief Les Powell has just come off of a 30-day suspension for vehemently resisting the micromanaging of his department by certain members of the township board.

On Tuesday, 40-year volunteer fire fighter Martin Kalasz also was suspended for 30 days for saying during a mandatory meeting on April 1 that the new rules were “bull shit”. Some board members testify Marty also said the township was trying to take over the fire department.

Trustee Peggy Morgan made the motion for 30 days of suspension for Marty’s fiery expression of free speech. Treasurer John Morgan seconded. Clerk Clarence Hoffman was the only one voting no. Chief Powell asked whether there was a tiered level of discipline and township attorney Rob Young practically bit his head off for asking. Everything’s 30 days, we guess.

Marty asked if the board of this rural community didn’t know what bullshit was. It’s in the dictionary, he noted. They were not amused. Marty had asked for a public hearing on the discipline sought by Trustee Morgan, so the community would know what is going on. Marty admitted he said BS, but denied the comment about the board takeover. The attorney charged he had “exploded and left a mandatory meeting.”

The 30-day punishment for disagreeing and being disagreeable is overdoing it. The Sumpter board has to put more value on the volunteers who watch over their safety.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville Police Officer David Brooks has resigned to go with the Romulus Police Department. He was sworn in on Monday. Officer Brooks had been a part-time Belleville officer for a long time and recently was promoted to a full-time position.

\*\*\*

Juan Verde of Belleville turns out to be a real pro with kites and so he will be helping out and sharing his expertise at this Saturday’s “Let’s Go Fly a Kite Day” put on by the Belleville Parks and Recreation Commission at Village Park next to Victoria Commons on Savage Road. The Belleville Area Council for the Arts will be selling food to earn funds for a planned building in downtown Belleville.

\*\*\*

The Belleville Central Business Community is looking into getting a bagpiper to lead the people over the Belleville Bridge for the annual Belleville Bridge Walk on Aug. 16, just before the Taste of Belleville. The Belleville Lake Ski Club might be the entertainment for the Taste. Decisions are still being made.

At last week’s CBC meeting, Carol Thompson of the Belleville Downtown Development Authority, said she also belongs to the Healthy Lifestyle Coalition and in this role she was asking the CBC to consider not giving out candy at future Flop E. Bunny events, since sugar isn’t good for children.

Carol suggested giving out pencils, coloring books and crayons, instead.

Kathie Steigerwald said her kids would reply, “Are you kidding me?” at such a suggestion.



Let the CBC know what you think about that. Bill Wolters of Stony Creek Motorsports is chairman of the group.

\*\*\*

The University of Michigan announced last week that in the coming months at least seven U of M professors will offer free, online courses on such topics as finance, electronic voting, computer vision, and fantasy and science fiction using a new web-based platform called Coursera.

Coursera (www.courera.org) is an educational company founded last fall by two Stanford University computer science professors. The company announced last week that U-M is one of four universities that will make web-based courses available at no cost.

\*\*\*

The Van Buren Township web site has copies of the FEMA floodplain maps for the township. It’s interesting to browse around the properties in VBT.

One observant browser points out the DNR property north of the Belleville Bridge, being considered as the site of a new district library, actually is in the flood plain. It’s marked blue on the map because it’s vacant and not a problem because there is no structure on it now.

\*\*\*

There are dozens of binders holding the 20,000 pages of evidence in the Romulus Police corruption pre-trial examination being held this week and next at the Van

Buren Township Hall. Actually, there are two sets, since the judge gets one set.

After court closes for the day around 4:30 p.m., the evidence binders are loaded on carts and rolled over to the Van Buren Township Police property room and locked up for the night. Only three people have keys, I’m told.

The prosecuting attorney told the court these documents contain sensitive personal information and will not be public record after the trial is over.

\*\*\*

At Monday’s School Board meeting, board president Martha Toth explained that the brand-new media center in the new high school building has big windows that will look out over the big pond to be dug for drainage purposes at the front of the complex. Of course, now there is a brick building – the old Belleville High School – just a few feet outside the window and when you look out the window, you see a brick wall.

Once the old high school is torn down, beginning in June, a pond and parking lot will be installed to complete the project. Then, the windows will overlook a pond.

Sid Dotinga of Granger Construction guaranteed the high school and the tall smoke stack will fall AWAY from the new building when they are demolished.



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## Letters

### Sign my petition against flood zone remapping

To the Editor:

Last week I wrote a letter stating that I have a petition against the FEMA flood plain remapping in Wayne County. This remapping is going to lower the property values, raise foreclosure rates, and cost the residents thousands.

I personally just received (as I am writing this) my first quote of \$3,214 per year [for flood insurance]! I have received some response on the petition, but I need a better response, so I am writing again. PLEASE HELP ME!

I have to thank the people that have responded for helping and supporting this petition. I have received a call from Craig Moody, who is the Deputy Supervisor of Sumpter Township. He is in support of this petition, as well, and is going to help by putting me in touch with local and state representatives to try to get their support so we can come into Congress with guns blazing.

I also wanted to thank the many phone calls I have received in support of the petition, as well as the people who have requested petition forms to go around their neighborhood to receive as many signatures as they can get.

When reading last week's paper, I noticed that they have now hit Van Buren Township. I do know that FEMA has mapped all Wayne County. It's just a matter of time before they suffocate other communities and, as I have stated before, the foreclosure rate is going to hit an all-time high. It may not happen

right off the bat, but for those residents that are struggling already, another \$100 or so a month will break them.

So, I am pleading to the public, not just our local residents, but anyone in Wayne County to sign my petition. The more signatures we can gather, the better. Remember, strength in numbers. Let us show the government we are tired of being run over and being told how and when to spend our paychecks. I know I am tired of it.

If anyone wants to volunteer to try to retrieve more signatures on their own, I can provide the forms. I have been trying to figure out a way to get the word out there that I have this petition, but writing in this local paper is the only way I have come up with so if you have an idea, I am willing to listen.

Thank you again for all the support and, yes, it's so easy to support this petition ... your signature. Let's keep this alive and keep the word spreading. Stop by at 17500 Sumpter Road, Belleville (two houses south of Bemis on the west side), or call 734-699-6994. The petition is left on my front porch, on the bench, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. unless it's forecasted to rain. For those of you that can't leave the house because of your age or disability, I am willing to come by to have you sign it. Just give me a call.

Kath Duke  
Sumpter Township

## We're having a HUGE yard sale for Kelsey

To the Editor:

We are having a HUGE yard sale to benefit Kelsey McDaniels' trip to Australia with her honors choir.

Dates of the sale are Wednesday-Saturday, 10-5, at 48365 Willis Road, Belleville.

TONS of things. Please come help to support this event. You will not leave empty-handed

Thanks,


JoAnn McDaniel, Sumpter Township

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*--Mark Twain*



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Belleville Area Independent

## More Letters

### We have Medal of Honor recipient at Soop

To the Editor:

I saw your front-page photograph and caption recognizing the local descendants of Civil War soldiers from the Tri-community area in this week's *Independent*.

I am unsure if the following information was mentioned at Ginger Bruder's presentation last week, but I felt it was important enough to bring to your attention.

Van Buren Township has the honor of being both the birth place and final resting place of a Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient. I became aware of this recipient several years ago while investigating a complaint at a local cemetery.

Corporal Henry Lewis was born in Van Buren Township on December 14, 1842. Lewis enlisted with the 47<sup>th</sup> Ohio in Adrian, Michigan. On May 3, 1863, during the Battle of Vicksburg, Cpl. Lewis and a group of volunteers attempted to run the Confederate artillery batteries with a steam tug and two barges filled with vital supplies. For this action, on April 17, 1917, Cpl. Lewis was presented with the Medal of Honor. Cpl. Lewis passed away on March 29, 1930 and was laid to rest in the Soop Cemetery on Denton Road behind where the Diamondback Saloon currently stands.

Since the creation of the Medal of Honor in 1862, it has been bestowed upon only 3,458 recipients, a great number of these posthumously. I would hope that you would share this with your readers and encourage them to continue to honor the service and sacrifice of all of those who have served this great nation.

Ryan Bidwell

Van Buren Township Police Department  
Van Buren Public Safety Honor Guard

**Editor's Note:** Yes, indeed, Ginger did discuss Cpl. Lewis, his honor, and final resting place. She also shared A LOT of fresh information on other local Civil War soldiers, since she and her husband do so much genealogical work at museums and libraries. In 2001, we published an extremely detailed story on Cpl. Lewis, with the help of Belleville historian Bob Doane, who dug out lots of records, and other Civil War historians. We also published pictures of Van Buren Township employees Dan Smith and Jeff Fondaw setting in place Cpl. Lewis' special Medal of Honor headstone at Soop Cemetery provided by the U.S. Government.

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# Obituaries

## DARLYN G. CICCARELLI

(February 5, 1963 - April 18, 2012)

Age 49, of Van Buren Township. Survived by her husband, Richard West, and 2 sons; Richard West III and Austin West; two sisters Rose Pokrzywnicky and Trudy (Richard) Mindick. David C. Brown Funeral Home.



John R. Mercurio, Sr



Gerald "Jerry" Ned Kimlin



Joyce Loraine Warblow

## PAMELA ANN GENDRON

(June 22, 1953 - April 19, 2012)

Age 58, of Belleville. Member of Belleville High School Class of 1970. Survived by 2 daughters Kerry (Ryan) Handemann and Crystal Marie Jones; 2 grandchildren; mother; 5 siblings. David C. Brown Funeral Home.

## Free 'When Families Grieve' kit available at Brown's Funeral Home

Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind *Sesame Street*, has created *When Families Grieve*, a bilingual (English and Spanish) multimedia resource kit, featuring the Muppets from *Sesame Street*, for young children and families who have experienced the death of a parent.

For a free kit or for more information contact David C. Brown Funeral Home's Grief Coordinator, Mary Martinez at 734-697-5090.

Please note that Brown's also provides free grief support for all.

## JOHN R. MERCURIO, SR.

(September 19, 1942 - April 17, 2012)

John Ronald Mercurio, Sr., age 69, of Belleville, MI, passed away Tuesday, April 17, 2012 in Monroe County, MI. He was born September 19, 1942 in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, son of the late Michael Henry & Christina Marie (Prailey) Mercurio.

He proudly served his county in the U.S. Military and retired as a service engineer in the automotive industry. He enjoyed car shows, hunting and fishing and was a gun collector. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family and traveling.

He is survived by his wife Laurie (Doughtery) Mercurio; two sons Jim Mercurio and John (Linda) Mercurio, Jr.; two grandchildren Jimmy (Alisha) Mercurio and Jamie Mercurio; a brother Tom Mercurio of Monroe, North Carolina; a nephew Michael Mercurio of Nashville, Tennessee; also numerous cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Gathering was held 1-4 PM Sunday, April 22, 2012 with a 4:00 PM Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

Memorial contributions to a Fallen Veteran's organization would be appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).

## GERALD 'JERRY' NED KIMLIN

(August 22, 1929 - April 17, 2012)

Gerald Ned "Jerry" Kimlin, age 82, of Ypsilanti, MI, passed away Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at Bortz Health Care Center, Ypsilanti. He was born August 22, 1929 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, son of the late Ruel & Phyllis (LeClair) Kimlin.

Mr. Kimlin proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. He lived in the Ypsilanti area for over 40 years. He was Catholic and enjoyed bowling, baseball and fishing. He also enjoyed traveling, working in his yard and going out to eat. Jerry retired from Ford Motor Company - Ypsilanti plant, after 43 years of loyal service. He loved working at Ford Motor Company and buying Ford cars.

He is survived by two daughters, Karen (Charles "Bob") Brown of Willis, MI, and Kathy (David) Chalmers of Georgia; a sister Nancy Roberts; a brother, William "Bill" Kimlin; a sister-in-law JoAnn Kimlin; 4 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; also numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Freda Nell (Campbell) Kimlin, who passed in 2011; his mother Phyllis, also in 2011, at 105 years old; a brother Ken "Doc" Kimlin; a brother-in-law, Jim Roberts; and a grandson, Christopher Dean in 2008.

Visitation was 2-4 PM and 5-8PM on Thursday, April 19, with a Funeral service on Friday, April 20, 2012 at 12:00 Noon at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI, with Deacon Peter Cornell officiating. Interment was in Alban Cemetery, Ypsilanti, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the Kimlin family and would be appreciated.

Please sign his on-line guest book at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com) and share a memory for them to cherish.

## JOYCE LORAIN WARBLow

(December 7, 1928 - April 19, 2012)

Joyce Loraine Warblow, age 83, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away at home with her loving family by her side. She was born December 7, 1928 in Wayne, MI, daughter of the late Fenn and Fern (Amrhein) Day.

Joyce enjoyed both of her careers, at Michigan Bell and also working in the cafeteria at North Middle School. She was a member of the line dancing club "Boots in Motion" for over 20 years. She enjoyed reading, traveling in the RV around the country and to her favorite vacation spot in Florida. Mrs. Warblow was a devoted wife and mother and especially cherished the time spent with her family.

Joyce is survived by her devoted husband, Fred "Dutch" Warblow; two sons Michael (Denise) Warblow of Beloit, WI, and Robert (Cindy) Warblow of Grand Rapids, MI; two daughters Pamela (Thomas) Higgins of Belleville, MI, and Joy (Kevin) O'Keefe of McBain, MI; twelve grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; also survived by a sister Marge Bartloacci of Port Orange, FL and a sister-in-law, Barb Richards of MO.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers Albert Day and Don Richards.

Visitation was held at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville on Sunday, April 22, 2012 from 2-8 PM. Visitation was at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 47445 West Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI from 10-11 AM with an 11 AM Funeral Service on Monday, April 23, 2012 with Pastor Frey officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Belleville, and would be appreciated by the family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).

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# Obituaries

## HELEN RUTH RAYMOND

(May 15, 1924 - April 19, 2012)

Helen Ruth Raymond, 87, of Cedar Bay and current resident of Woodland Haven at the Houghton County Medical Care Facility, passed away on Thursday morning April 19, 2012.

Helen was born on May 15, 1924 in Denton, MI, a daughter of the late George and Helen (Birk) Lindblad. She graduated from Belleville High School in 1942.

On December 19, 1942, she married Don Raymond in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Belleville. Together they owned and operated Standard Oil Co. in Belleville. She also owned Raymond's Dairy Bar in Belleville and in her younger years she worked as a beautician. In 1987 they moved to Cedar Bay to enjoy their retirement years. Helen enjoyed doing crossword puzzles, spending time with her family and spending the past 70 years with her husband Don.

She was a member of National Lutheran Church in Calumet and past member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Belleville teaching Sunday School and serving as president of the Ladies Aid.

Helen was preceded in death by a brother, George Lindblad.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years Don; a daughter Lorrie Suzanne (Jerry) Dummann of Belleville; two grandchildren Joel Dummann of Wayne and Heidi Dummann of Wayne; and a great-granddaughter Sophia.

Funeral services were held on Saturday April 21, 2012 in the Erickson Crowley Funeral Home in Calumet with the Rev. Brian Weinkauff officiating. Entombment was in the Lake View Cemetery.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.ericksoncrowley.com](http://www.ericksoncrowley.com). In lieu of other expressions of sympathy, memorials may be given to National Lutheran Church, 8th and Elm Streets, Calumet, MI 49913.

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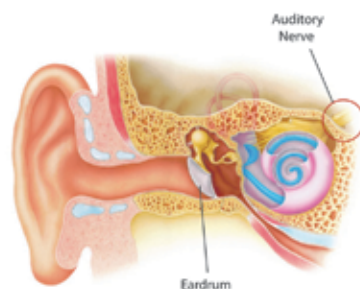
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*Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman*

On Saturday the Belleville Area Museum hosted the first lecture in the 2012 Civil War Commemoration Events with "Michigan in the Civil War" presented in pictures and words by father and son team Al and Dave Eicher. From left are Belleville Museum Director Katie Dallos, Al Eicher, and Dave Eicher. The museum had a full house for the event, which presented lots of new Civil War-related information, including that starting in 1861 the Orphan Train that moved youngsters from Eastern cities out to Western rural areas also brought 12,500 children to Michigan. The idea was to give the children (not always orphans) a better life, but often the children became indentured servants. The Eichers have sought out information from libraries and museums across the state and compiled the fresh information into CDs and videos.

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## More Letters

### Writer criticizes past of candidate for office

To the Editor:

I see John Herman had his election picture taken with a couple of county officials. Tho' having a picture taken with Bob (I'm not responsible for anything) Ficano would seem to me to be a detriment.

Isn't John the person, who at one time, was a Van Buren trustee? I believe I read in your paper that he moved out of the township but continued to sit on the board until you exposed him, forcing the board to appoint Ms. Leann Clair to finish his term? Then he accused someone of having an affair? And later had to apologize because it was a lie?

Now he wants to handle millions of dollars of our money? How someone acts when no one is looking speaks to character.

Vic Franzoi  
Van Buren Township

**Editor's Note:** There are several statements in this letter that are incorrect. The picture published on Page 3 of last week's *Independent* was not an "election" picture taken with "a couple of county officials." John Herman, president of the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, welcomed visiting elected officials to an event in Van Buren Township and a county representative took their picture. In the photo were State Rep. Dian Slavens and Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano. The *Independent* did not "expose" Herman, who had moved out of the township briefly during a divorce. It was Supervisor Cindy King who demanded Herman resign, and he did, paving the way for the board to appoint a judge's wife, Leanne Clair, to finish his term. It was in February 1995 that Herman inferred at a public meeting that an appointed township official was having an affair with a volunteer, for which he has apologized.

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Photo by Tom DeRousie

At about 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 23, a tree was blown down by high winds across Rawsonville Road, just north of W. Huron River Drive (by the lake). The photo was taken while heading southbound on Rawsonville. The yellow car belonged to a man in a safety vest (possibly a construction worker) who decided to stop and help by directing traffic, alternately stopping northbound, then southbound traffic while allowing opposing traffic to pass. Emergency responders had not yet arrived at the time of the photo.

## Things to do in the Belleville area ...

- **Saturday, April 28** – Antique Appraisal Fair, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Grace Baptist Church gymnasium, sponsored by Belleville Area Council for the Arts, first item \$10, additional items \$5 each, limit of five items per person
- **Saturday, April 28** – Final walk-through of old Belleville High School before it's demolished, 10 a.m. – noon.
- **Saturday, April 28** -- "Let's Go Fly a Kite Day" in Belleville, noon to 4 p.m., Village Park (Victoria Commons), free. Food for sale by Belleville Area Council for the Arts.
- **Saturday, April 28** – Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation fund-raising dinner, 6-8:30 p.m., St. Anthony Catholic Church. Tickets at the door.
- **Saturday, May 5** – Used book sale at Belleville Area District Library, from 11 a.m. to noon for members of the Friends of the Library and from noon to 3 p.m. for the general public. Also, the annual spring plant swap will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in the library courtyard.

• **Saturday, May 5** -- Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue 5<sup>th</sup>-annual Cinco de Mayo Dinner fund-raiser, dinner at 6 p.m., Ypsilanti Eagles Hall, 2935 Holmes Road, Ypsilanti, tickets \$25, tickets & information, 461-9458

• **Saturday, May 5** – "Murder, Maestro, Please" dinner theater at the Bayou Grill to benefit the literacy programs of the Belleville Rotary Club and the Belleville Area District Library, 6-10 p.m., \$25 per person, tickets at Bayou, library, and from any Rotarian.

• **Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. to Sunday, May 6, 10 a.m. (24-hour event)** – Relay for Life at Quirk Park, fund raiser for American Cancer Society.

• **Saturday, May 5** – Sumpter Township residents only may drop off up to seven non-commercial-size tires at the township recycling center behind township hall, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **Saturday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, May 6, from noon to 2 p.m.** – Register for Belleville Cougars football at the Van Buren Township Hall. Check [www.bellevillecougars.com](http://www.bellevillecougars.com) for information on what to bring. Also, the Cougars are in need of experienced cheerleading coaches.

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# Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 17, 2012

Supervisor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor White, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee Ostrowski and Trustee Partridge. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Wright, Public Safety Director McClanahan, Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll, DPW Director MacDonald, Chief Loyer, Executive Assistant/Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Engineer Nummer, Secretary Cline and an audience of forty-two (42).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda as amended adding a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) presentation following the Public Hearing. Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes April 2, 2012; Closed Session Minutes April 2, 2012. Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 3, 2012.] as presented. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Hart moved, Wright seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on request for Public Act 328 Property Tax Exemption on Personal Property for Constellium Automotive USA, LLC. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Partridge, Ostrowski, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and White. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Supervisor White opened the public hearing at 7:33 p.m. Supervisor White went to Executive Assistant/Assessing Coordinator Stevenson for an explanation. Executive Assistant/Assessing Coordinator Stevenson stated this public hearing is to receive public comment on request for Public Act 328 Property Tax Exemption for Constellium Automotive USA, LLC on Personal Property at 6331 Schooner Drive. This building has 154,490 square feet and has been vacant since 2006. Constellium manufactures aluminum safety components and due to new contracts Constellium will be purchasing over 20 million dollars of new machinery and equipment for the Van Buren site and will be adding 75 new jobs. All taxing authorities were notified via certified mail of this tax abatement request and Van Buren Township has not received any objections. Constellium will be leasing this building from DeMattia and there are no delinquent taxes. Public Act 328 is a 100 percent exemption on Personal Property and can be granted for up to six (6) years. Van Buren Township uses a point system to determine the number of years the Township grants the abatement for and Constellium qualifies for a four (4) year tax exemption on personal property. A personal property return and report showing status of project must be filed annually with the Township's Assessing Department, noting there are consequences if the terms of the agreement are not met. Public Act 328 was created to provide a tax reduction to eligible businesses to bring in new business or more business to the State of Michigan. A Constellium representative presented an overview of the worldwide manufacturing company. Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) representative gave an overview of the target site selection process who partnered with Constellium to assist in keeping this company in Michigan, noting the tax abatement was part of

the company's interest in locating in Van Buren Township. MEDC will assist with job fair to fill these positions and market these jobs to Van Buren Township residents. The Constellium representative reviewed the following: proposed investment to site including rehab to the facility with approximately 1 million dollars of tenant improvements; the lease agreement with DeMattia for ten years and seven months lease with two five year options to extend the lease and building expansions; over 20 million dollars of investment in equipment; a minimum of 75 professional, skilled and semi-skilled jobs. Director Carroll stated Van Buren Township has a PA 328 tax abatement application process in place that uses a point system to determine if an applicant is eligible for tax abatement and Constellium met the requirements to be granted four (4) year personal property tax abatement. Board members had the following questions and comments. Trustee Partridge requested the hours of operations and noise level, the Constellium representative stated the operation is generally on two shifts through eleven p.m. Monday through Friday, with a third shift if needed; the equipment is designed to keep the noise level low. Trustee Hart inquired how many of the employees are transferring from other facilities to the Van Buren facility; type of jobs; why locating here instead of in the south. The Constellium representative stated none all 75 jobs are new jobs; reviewed the job types; it was a business decision to stay in the mid-west. Supervisor White inquired when the facility would be at full production; when will the start of production and number of employees in initial phase. The Constellium representative stated full production at the end of 2015; will start moving equipment this fall with production beginning in spring 2013 with 23 employees. Trustee Hart stated a Wayne County representative was also present tonight and the Wayne County representative stated the county works closely with MEDC and businesses in Wayne County and further stated Wayne County supports the Constellium project in Van Buren Township. Trustee Hart stated adding new jobs will help in the employment led recovery in southeastern Michigan. Trustee Hart stated residents inquired "Why a company so healthy needed a tax break?" and "Why can't township residents be dedicated to these jobs?" The Constellium representative stated it is an overall business decision after looking at a variety of locations; Director Carroll and the MEDC representative stated the jobs will be advertised locally with a job fair held in the township, but cannot require the jobs go only to residents. Supervisor White agreed the job fair should be held at township hall and bringing jobs to the Van Buren Township is important. Audience members made the following questions and comments. John Delaney stated children not jobs should be the concern of the township noting the loss of taxes to schools and parks; why not wait until the business is here for several years prior to considering tax abatement. Diane Madigan inquired if a fire inspection would be done prior to the facility being occupied; Public Safety Committee has recommended to the Board hiring two police officers to replace officers who have left and this abatement gives up tax revenue that should be used for Public Safety and schools; if abatement is given is there other ways Constellium can help the township such as paying for CODE RED. Director Carroll stated the facility will go through the normal process of inspections. Reggie Miller inquired about how the tax abatement affects residents and how is tax abatement tracked. Supervisor White stated tax abatements are legal in Michigan and the requestor must meet the requirements and report

annually to the Township. Executive Assistant Stevenson stated the personal property tax is abated for four (4) years and the real property taxes will still be paid. Treasurer Budd explained school taxes go to state and not to the school district the state pays school district by the head counts and as long as the school district has the 18 mills in place the school district, the state holds the school district harmless. Allen Babosh requested the township check to see if residential requirements can be required and are these union jobs. Director Carroll stated in Michigan a residency requirement is not legal; the Constellium representative stated they are all non-union jobs. Diane Madigan inquired if Constellium will be filing for 198 tax abatement on real property. Director Carroll stated they are not qualified for 198 tax abatement. Reggie Miller inquired how the township tracks the contribution to the community from the companies who receive the tax abatements. Treasurer Budd state L&W is a good example of company with a tax abatement who files an annual report with the township and tax abatements are tracked in the Supervisor's Office. L&W has been a good neighbor and have given back to the community. Also, tax abatements can be rescinded if they are not meeting the terms of the agreement. Larry Fix requested an explanation of the PA 328 stating this only the first step in the process. Executive Assistant Stevenson stated if the Board approves the resolution and agreement for the PA 328 tax abatement all documents go to the state and the state grants the tax abatement. If the Board does not approve the tax abatement Constellium can appeal to the state and the state can still grant the tax abatement noting this could be for more years than what the township would have approved the tax abatement for.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 8:25 p.m. Partridge moved, Ostrowski seconded to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Jahr, Ostrowski, Partridge, Budd, Hart, Wright and White. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Director Carroll and Engineer Nummer gave a presentation regarding changes in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain maps and requirements for flood insurance. A two-step process was presented to assist those residents affected by these changes. Engineer Nummer has a computer set up in the Denton room for residents who are present and would like to see where their property is on the FEMA floodplain zone map. Director Carroll reviewed a proposal from Wade Trim for Floodplain Technical Assistance, Survey and LOMA preparation certificates. Trustee Hart thanked Treasurer Budd, Director Carroll and Engineer Nummer for providing this information to the Board and residents. Trustee Hart further stated the Federal Government is pushing to recover FEMA money by burdening tax payers in this area and feels this is wrong. Trustee Jahr stated no one from FEMA came out to survey the property and a third party provided the information FEMA used to change the maps. Trustee Jahr stated the township should be working with other jurisdiction for a possible joint class action suit and all residents can contact their elected Federal Representatives regarding the changes to the FEMA floodplain map. Trustee Jahr requested clarification of who will receive letters and applications from the township. Director Carroll stated all residents with parcels in the FEMA floodplain map area will receive the letter and application. If the application is returned to the township then the township will work with the resident and if the resident requests to have the LOMA certificate done the resident will then pay the township \$175. There is a deadline at the end of May to

file for map changes and LOMA certificates to FEMA.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the proposal with Wade Trim for Floodplain Technical Assistance and Survey in the amount of \$7,100; \$175 for LOMA preparation certificates paid by the resident and a written plan in place by the Director for how the process will work. Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Clerk Wright read a letter from Director MacDonald recognizing the following employees Account Clerk Joanne Montgomery, DPW Leader Jeff Fondaw and Account Clerk Donna Hunter for their assistance in handling a recent burial at Tyler Cemetery. Clerk Wright also thanked all employees involved.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Hart moved, Wright seconded to approve the adoption of Resolution 2012-08 authorizing a PA 328 Property Tax Exemption for Constellium Automotive USA, LLC and authorizing the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Agreement. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Partridge, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and White. Nays: Ostrowski. Absent: None. Carried.

Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the adoption of Resolution 2012-09 as revised removing names and listing positions only (Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer) as delegating authority to assign fund balances. Carried.

Jahr moved, Partridge seconded to approve the purchase of six (6) In-car laptop E6420 computers with six (6) power supply units from Dell at a cost not to exceed \$15,600 with funds coming from E-911 Fund transferred to General Fund then transferred to Capital Outlay (101-301-970). Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to amend the Public Safety Committee by-laws to include "Non-Agenda Items" as recommended by the Public Safety Committee. Carried.

**VOUCHER LIST:** Wright moved, Partridge seconded to approve the April 17, 2012 voucher list. Carried.

Trustee Jahr requested a written report on the status of the electrical inspectors.

**REPORTS:** Supervisor White ordered the Public Safety Committee 2011 Annual Report received and filed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Trustee Partridge reminded residents the Belleville Area Museum currently has a Civil War exhibit and the Museum will host on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. a lecture on "Michigan in the Civil War".

Treasurer Budd announced the Drive-In Dog Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Water and Sewer building located behind township hall. Contact the Treasurer's Office at 734.699.8903 for additional information.

Director Wright announced the following: On Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> the annual Mother and Son Bowl will be held at Lodge Lanes. A spring volleyball clinic will be held on Fridays May 18<sup>th</sup> through June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Drop-in Pickleball is held every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Van Buren Recreation Gymnasium. Annual park passes are available in the Recreation Department. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 734-699-8921, township website [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org) or visit the Recreation Facebook page.

John Herman Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club representative announced how the May 5<sup>th</sup> Democratic caucus will be run and the locations as follows: Sumpter Township in the Senior Center; Van Buren Township at the Wayne County Fairgrounds and City of Belleville at Victory Station. Registration is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and for more information contact



# VBT Court

(continued from page 1)

Since some continue to be Confidential Informants. Judge Kersten so ordered, over the objections of several defense attorneys.

Before the witnesses began being called, the attorney for Mohammad Bazzi came forward with his client to say Bazzi does not wish to testify and is taking the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination. They asked that his subpoena to be a witness be quashed and he was released from the subpoena.

The beginning witnesses for the prosecution were to be Joyce Clay, administrative aide to the Romulus Chief of Police since 1995 (through four chiefs); followed by Brian Moody and Confidential Informant 180. Clay testified all day Monday and was to begin again on Tuesday, tediously answering questions about receipts and individual defendants as

the prosecution went through the mountains of paper evidence.

Clay testified about her role over the years in checking out the "buy money" to the various Special Investigative Unit officers, until Chief Michael St. Andre took over the handling of the cash. She testified that when St. Andre was sworn in as chief, it was a small gathering, and included only the mayor, the clerk, St. Andre's wife, herself, and Mo Bazzi, the owner of A&A Oil Change.

She testified from 2005 to 2010, the SIU turned in receipts for more than \$70,000 in food purchased at Subway, Fishbones, and various fast food places, and also A&A Oil Changes.

She told how her draws to fill the cash box for the SIU was \$2,500 in the beginning,

which would last for months, and then it grew to \$10,000, which would be gone in a short time.

The defendants are:

- Michael St. Andre, former Romulus Police Chief, who faces 10 charges, including conducting a criminal enterprise and acquiring or maintaining a criminal enterprise. He faces up to 20 years in prison;

- Sandra Vlaz-St. Andre, his wife, who faces up to 20 years for allegedly acquiring or maintaining a criminal enterprise and a charge of conspiracy criminal enterprise;

- Detective/Sgt. Richard Balzer who faces felony racketeering charges that carry up to 20 years in prison;

- Detective Donald Hopkins who faces felony racketeering charges that carry up to

20 years in prison;

- Detective Richard Landry who faces felony racketeering charges that carry up to 20 years in prison;

- Detective Jeremy Channells who faces charges of misconduct in office that carry up to 5 years in prison; and

- Detective Larry Droege who faces charges of misconduct in office that carry up to five years in prison.

When all the testimony is complete, Judge Kersten will decide whether there is reason to believe crimes were committed and whether these defendants might have been the ones committing the crimes. If so, he will bind the defendants over for trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The court sessions in the VBT board meeting room (with a black drape over the township logo) are open to the public.

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

(continued from page 12)

John Herman.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Comments were made from 9:55 p.m. to 11:02 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: regarding rescinding Hoosier/Visteon Co-Generation project special use approval; Victoria Park Estates Condominiums; political issues; Public Safety; Visteon Master plan and Office Technology District; information regarding DTE Smart meters and requesting township opt out by resolution/moratorium; Township Ordinances; point system for Police Department; number of police officers; Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) insurance; tax abatements. (Treasurer Budd requested the Supervisor's Office put together a resolution regarding Smart Meters to present to the Board. Trustee Ostrowski requested status of Victory Park Estates Condominium.)

**CLOSED SESSION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jahr moved, Ostrowski seconded to adjourn at 11:02 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Paul D. White, Township Supervisor

Published: April 26, 2001

## Sumpter Township Public Notice

### SEEKING TRACTOR BIDS

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 is requesting sealed bids for an approximately 35 PTO horsepower tractor with 4-wheel drive and loader. Must be equipped with cab. After market installed is ok. Must take Ford 1720 tractor and loader in trade. Sumpter Township maintains the right to accept or reject any bid. Call 734-787-7244 or 734-461-6201 with questions. Bids must be submitted to the clerk's office by May 16, 2012 by 3:00 pm. Bids will be opened May 16, 2012 at 3:05 pm. Publish April 26, 2012

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## 3 District Library seats on the ballot in Nov. 6 General Election

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

According to the bylaws of the Belleville Area District Library, when the initial, seven-member board was elected in 2010, the top four vote-getters won four-year terms and the next three winners were elected for two years.

In November, the three seats with two-year terms will be up for election to four-year terms. After that, every two years there will be either four or three seats up for election to four-year terms.

The board positions up for a vote on Nov. 6 are currently filled by Michael Boelter of Sumpter Township, Joy Cichewicz of Sumpter Township, and John Juriga of the City of Belleville.

Deadline for filing for the Nov. 6 General Election is 4 p.m., July 19.

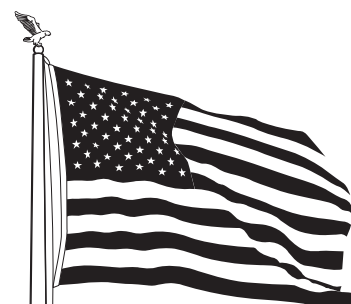
Filing must be done with the Wayne County Clerk at 2 Woodward Ave., Suite 502, Detroit.

Nominating petitions can be obtained from the Wayne County Clerk or from local municipal clerks on a general form accepted by Wayne County.

The number of signatures on the petition shall be no less than 40 or more than 100. In lieu of filing a nominating petition, a candidate may file a \$100 non-refundable fee to have their name placed on the ballot.

In addition to the fee or petition, the candidate must file an affidavit of identity.

Candidates must live in the library district, which includes the City of Belleville and townships of Van Buren and Sumpter.





# Tiger baseball splits doubleheader with Ypsilanti at Beck Fields

By Bob Mytych  
Independent Sports Editor

The Belleville Tigers baseball team played host to Ypsilanti last Saturday and split with the Phoenix in double-header action played at the Beck Ball Fields in Van Buren Township.

The Tigers lost the opening game 2-1 before taking the nightcap, 4-3. With cloud cover and a stiff, northeast wind, the two teams didn't gather much offense with Ypsi taking a 1-0 lead with a run in the top of the third. Belleville tied the game in the bottom of the sixth, before losing the lead in the bottom of the seventh.

The Tigers scattered five hits and committed seven strikeouts in the opener.

Belleville's Eddie McWilliams led the Tigers with three hits and a pair of RBI's, while Scott Powell had two hits, including one double. Josh Brice and Josh Hall also added a hit apiece.

Up next: Romulus at Belleville April 25, Livonia Franklin (doubleheader) at Belleville April 28. Home games are at Beck Field this season.

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**HOME FOR SALE in Belleville 6437 Denton Rd. 3 BR. 1 bath Single Family home/fixer upper.** Owner financing or cash discount. \$750 down, \$370/mo. (803) 978-1540 or (803) 403-9555. 5/17

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Cash Paid For Your Junk or Wrecked Cars or Trucks!

If You Can't Or Don't Want To Donate It, call us.

We Will Pick It Up Or You Can Drive It In For More \$.

16007 Pardee, Taylor, Michigan

## 734-282-1700



# INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

## GARAGE/YARD SALE

**YARD SALE - 9 CAPISTRANO**, Home Town Mobile Park. April 26-28. 2 Bar stools, Edger, Leaf vacuum, Golf clubs, Dolls & lots more. Follow signs in park. 4/26

**10 FAMILY SALE - 6500 WESTERN**, Mich. Ave/Ecorse off Denton follow signs. April 25-30. Designer clothing (all ages) Men & Women, Furniture, Misc. (734) 620-6382 4/26

**LARGE FAMILY YARD SALE - 46470 Bemis Rd.** April 27-28, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Variety of household items (new & used). Come & see. Something for everyone. Look for signs. 4/26

**BIG YARD SALE - 50462 BOG** off Rawsonville Rd ½ mile South of Huron River Dr/Textile. April 26-28. Slot machines, Beatles, Elvis, Tools, Antiques, Beer signs Bikes, Furniture, Books & Glass. 4/26

## FOR SALE

**24' Round, 52" Deep** above ground swimming pool. 3 yrs. old, used very little Brand new frog system value 300, loads of extras - poles, vacuum kit, closing tarp. \$1500 obo You Dismantle - You Haul. (734) 778-3245 4/26

**PROY BUILT PONY** Rear Tyne Tiller. 5 h.p., very good condition. \$400 firm. (734) 536-4027 4/26

**COUCH & 2 WING BACK CHAIRS.** Excellent condition. All for \$250 or couch, \$200, Chairs, \$100. (734) 753-9552 5/03

**HUNDREDS OF BOOKS.** SCI FIC, Detective, Vampire, Romance, Harlequins Hardcover & Paper backs. (734) 699-6522 5/03

**1978 MARK TWAIN BOWRIDER** 140 I.O. Mer Cruiser w/ trailer. Good condition. \$1850 (586) 441-8786 after 5 p.m. 5/03

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**PARTING OUT FORD 801, 172 CI** Diesel tractor. SOS Trans., \$950 for all. 7.50x16.5 foam filled tires, \$250. (734) 740-0557 5/10

## FOR SALE

**1962 FORD 901 TRACTOR**, WD front, rebuilt 172 CI, 50 h.p., SOS Trans., New battery, Tires VGC, Runs Great. \$2,900 (734) 740-0557 Dave 5/10

**H.P. INK CARTRIDGES.** # 11 Color, # 14 Combo pack. \$50 both. (734) 620-9152 5/10

**1988 LARSON LAZER 18.6** Open Bow 1/0, 130 h.p., OMC engine w/trailer. Full canvas. \$6,000 or Make Offer. (734) 461-0359 5/10

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**1967 FORD GALAXY 500** Convertible. 1952 Ford 9N Tractor (includes all equipment). 22' Pontoon boat, New top & New Tandem, Trailer w/ motor. (734) 697-7506 5/03

**1994 JEEP WRANGLER.** Rebuilt Drive Train. 4 Cylinder Auto. Transmission. Needs rust repair. Black hard top. \$2500 obo (313) 870-7053 5/03

**1984 GMC Van.** Runs great, needs some work. Good work van. \$800 obo (734) 635-9055 4/26

**1999 CHRYSLER SEBRING** Convertible Limited. 200,000 miles, Clean, Runs great, Original owner. \$1000 obo. (734) 699-6815 5/03

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**(2) FEMALE CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES.** 1 with black patch, 1 black w/ white feet. Ready to go April 21<sup>st</sup>. \$250 each. (734) 495-9390 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. only. 4/26

## WANTED

## WANTED: JUNK CARS

**Running or Not. Top \$ Paid. Call For Free Pickup. Drive In For Extra Dollars.**

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## WANTED

**WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS** for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

**WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS** of Shampoo, Toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

**GENE & SON TOWING.** WE BUY Junk Cars. Top Dollar paid. We pick up. 7 days a week. (734) 502-4017 or (734) 686-1250 5/03

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**KRISTIN CURTIS-ROCHON**, Edison St. YOU'VE Won a dozen free roses. Pick them up at Main St. Flower's downtown, Belleville. [www.mainstreetflowers.com](http://www.mainstreetflowers.com) or (734) 697-7400 TFN

**NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS** for needy families. You pick up. Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Belleville Church of God. 45170 Hull Rd. behind Fire Station. (734) 697-0927 5/10

## SERVICES

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## SERVICES

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# School Board

(continued from page 1)

feels the process has not been followed and she asked what the harm was in waiting another two weeks.

President Toth, in turn, asked what is the *good* in waiting two weeks, adding, "We closed two schools and don't need as many teachers."

Treasurer Toni Hunt said this discussion really belongs in negotiations, since the district currently is negotiating a contract with the VBEA.

School Supt. Michael Van Tassel said besides closing two schools, the district is re-shifting the classes in two middle schools and opening a new high school. He said there are so many details to attend to that every time they postpone some of the simple things, it gets more difficult.

"I want these people to have an opportunity to get a job elsewhere ... I don't want to get into details of people and positions in an open meeting," Supt. Van Tassel said.

"Some are not going to get called back. There will be more that is coming to the board," he said referring to layoffs, adding, "Hopefully some will be recalled."

Van Tassel said there are 13 teachers paid with federal and state funds which takes a whole process and if the district can't comply, those funds and teachers will not be available.

"The point in doing it now is to give individuals a chance to seek other employment," Lanford-Green said. "We hate to give them false hope."

Van Tassel said there is a \$4.2 million deficit next year and, "It's imperative we balance the budget."

"I see no harm in reaching out," said Frazier.

Van Tassel replied that the union didn't have the courtesy to send him a copy of the email Frazier had been quoting.

"You're undermining our administration," Toth said to Frazier, "because the assumption is they haven't done it right. This is just round 2 of layoffs."

Trustee Scott Russell said he can't discuss this email without seeing it, but he trusts the administration to do things properly.

Toth charged that the union tried to go over the bargaining team's head by going to the board.

Langford-Green stressed the layoffs are separate from negotiations, leading Toth to state that the board has been speaking "loosely" because board members don't know the ins and outs of labor law.

Frazier said the email concerns her because everyone should be getting together during these difficult times. Frazier said if the board won't work with the union, in the future it may not want to work with the board.

"I think you've done a lot of damage tonight," Toth said to Frazier.

The board unanimously approved the support staff changes, but voted 6-1 on the instructional staff changes, with Frazier voting no.

Because comments on agenda items are not allowed until this point in the agenda, Osborne could not speak before their vote.

She said the bargaining and layoff procedures now are completely different than they have been in the past. She said she called Langford-Green to tell her ahead of time what she would be saying at the meeting, although the email wasn't sent to the superintendent.

Osborne said in the past the union has overseen or reviewed layoffs.

Langford-Green said that is not a requirement in the contract for the union to be involved in staffing decisions.

"In the past, we were IN THE ROOM" when decisions were made, Osborne said, adding the layoffs were immediately known to them and they contacted their members before it went to the board.

This year, she said the number of staffing needed is unknown to the union, where they knew the numbers in the past. The union has not been invited to oversee or review the layoffs.

She said the union realizes there will be continual cuts in staffing, but they need to know the numbers to avoid unnecessary layoffs. She said many teachers are seeking other jobs, including herself, since they know elective subjects will have to be cut.

Langford-Green said they don't have the numbers at every building yet and they are looking at cutting additional programs.

"Giving a number is not something I'm able to do," she said. "But we do know some things. Other layoffs are coming. I would like to let people who are being laid off know sooner rather than later."

Van Tassel said in the past layoffs had been announced later in the year, which is not a good thing for those who would need to seek other employment.

He said they have yet to address student count, which is dropping.

Toth said with the middle schools being reconfigured, the new high school, the moving of Gifted and Talented classes, and closing of two elementaries, most students are moving. And, they won't know the number of students they will have in the

district until they see the whites of their eyes in the fall.

Laid-off teachers were Andrea Acomb, Heather Bell, Mark Darket, Brooklyn Dobis, Kimberly Glime, Tamara Hanaka, Chelsee Harris, Andrew Hartman, Kristy Hickson, Robert Hinderer, Laurie Hoffman, Kristin Horchem, Marcus Hosman, Erin Knotts, Michael Koebbe, Angela Mays, Anthony Munoz, and Jake Sweets.

In addition, teacher Patricia Andrew is

(continued on page 19)

## WHITE ELEPHANT AND BAKE SALE

**MAY 4, 5, 6 9:00AM TO 4:00PM**

**at COLUMBIA COURT**

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### Huron School District

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 Section 105 (Wayne County Residents Only)



**Fall Trimester 2012-2013 School Year**  
**Openings Include:**

School	Grade Level	Vacancies
Brown Elementary	K	5
	1	1
	2	5
	3	1
	4	5
Miller Elementary	5	5
	K	5
	1	5
	2	5
	3	5
Renton Junior High	4	5
	5	5
	6	10
	7	5
	8	5
Huron High School	9	5
	10	5
	11	5
	12	5

*Applications are available at the Huron School District Administration Building*  
*Applications will be accepted between the dates listed below.*  
**From May 7, 2012, through May 25, 2012.**  
**32044 Huron River Drive, New Boston, MI 48164**  
**For more information please call 734.782.2441 or visit our website at**  
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**(1 MILE SOUTH OF I-94 AT TEXTILE RD.)**



## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.  
For more detailed police logs, see [www.bellevilleareaindependent.com](http://www.bellevilleareaindependent.com).

### Sunday, April 15:

0054 – loud party complaint, DNR Huron River Dr.  
0123 – malicious destruction of property, 46255 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0134 – noise complaint, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine Creek  
0138 – operating while intoxicated, Meijer  
0209 – fraud, Meijer  
0251 – loud party complaint, 48731 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
0501 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Denton Rd.  
0740 – private property accident, Walmart  
0755 – juvenile complaint, Haggerty/Savage  
0854 – larceny, 47900 Bemis  
0919 – property damage accident, Rawsonville / Martz  
1015 – hospice, 9868 Van Buren St.  
1106 – assault & battery, 7981 Kirkridge Park Dr.  
1152 – assault & battery, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine Creek  
1304 – malicious destruction of property, 46121 Village Green Lane  
1628 – narcotics crime, 48480 Denton  
1730 – assault & battery, 9202 Parkwood Dr.  
1806 – juvenile complaint, 47097 McBride  
1824 – intimidation threat, 73 Rose Blvd.  
1841 – disorderly conduct, 10930 Belleville  
1939 – property damage accident, Haggerty/S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2026 – assault & battery, 33 Brandi  
2105 – disturbance, Sylvia Dr./Maurice Dr.  
2212 – fight, 51195 Sylvia Dr.

### Monday, April 16:

0002 – disturbance, 33 Brandi  
0059 – noise complaint, 47001 Water's Edge Ln.  
0115 – fight, 9270 Parkwood Dr.  
0729 – larceny, 10211 Van Buren St.  
0736 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 48940 Denton Rd.  
0755 – larceny from auto, 46151 Village Green Ln  
1030 – larceny from auto, 11199 Oak Ln.  
1348 – disorderly conduct, 13678 Country Walk  
1600 – fraud, 51341 W. Huron River Dr., Rite Aid  
1800 – fraud, 6452 Briarwood Dr.  
1831 – fight, 241 Montague Ave.  
1841 – juvenile complaint, 10017 Rolan Meadows  
1852 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 48470 Denton Rd.

1916 – larceny, 7077 Amanda Dr.  
1947 – fraud, 16095 Haggerty Rd.  
2110 – PPO violation, 41547 Van Born  
2124 – assault & battery, 6008 Victoria St.  
2233 – assault & battery, 77 Maple Dr.  
2251 – breaking & entering, 206 S. Ponderosa Trl.

### Tuesday, April 17:

0745 – juvenile complaint, 10930 Lighthouse Dr.  
0948 – larceny from auto, 1 Village Center Dr.  
1220 – malicious destruction of property, 16100 Hoeft Rd.  
1223 – intimidation threat, 29 Locust Dr.  
1329 – malicious destruction of property, 48580 Martz Rd.  
1449 – larceny from auto, 8001 Haggerty  
1757 – assault & battery, 9750 Belleville Rd.  
1820 – intimidation threat, 9772 Sawgrass ct.  
1834 – narcotics crime, 42695 Leon Dr.  
1938 – private property accident, 47097 McBride  
2045 – missing person, 43705 Dorchester

### Wednesday, April 18:

0721 – fight, Westlake Cir./Belleville Rd.  
0723 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Park  
0808 – property damage accident, Martinsville/Savage  
1046 – larceny, 10825 Borgman Rd.  
1105 – larceny from auto, 10743 Oak Ln.  
1125 – assault & battery, 48880 Denton Rd.  
1129 – larceny, 42975 Savage Rd.  
1438 – noise complaint, 42707 Leon Dr.  
1531 – larceny, 26 Birch Dr.  
1603 – fraud, Walmart  
1709 – violation of public health code / violation controlled substance act, 46425 Tyler

1732 – juvenile complaint, 8873 Stonebridge Ct.  
1845 – missing person, 49285 Hull Rd.  
1849 – assault & battery, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Old Denton Rd.

1934 – juvenile complaint, 8853 Parkwood Dr.  
1948 – assault & battery, 6515 Outer Dr.  
2239 – breaking & entering, 7 Brandi

### Thursday, April 19:

0650 – larceny from auto, 41441 N. Bellridge  
0804 – malicious destruction of property, 10667 Oak Lane

0810 – sexual assault, 46425 Tyler Rd.  
0934 – hospice, 45281 Van Born Rd.  
1519 – intimidation threat, 46425 Tyler Rd.  
1909 – fraud, 2095 Rawsonville, Kmart  
1937 – harassment call, Kmart  
1944 – mental, 6190 Dellor St.  
2112 – assault & battery, 49285 Hull Rd.  
2126 – harassment call, 51214 Sylvia dr.  
2128 – juvenile complaint, Haggerty Sub Park  
2335 – assault & battery, Ecorse/Hannan

### Friday, April 20:

0022 – larceny from an auto, 13850 Milton Dr.  
0155 – retail fraud, Meijer  
0427 – disturbance, 10880 Lighthouse Dr.  
0953 – private property accident, Kmart  
1118 – holdup alarm, 11575 Belleville, Trinity Episcopal Church (employee error)  
1207 – malicious destruction of property, 16650 Sumpter Rd.  
1423 – suspicious person, Old Michigan Rd.  
1529 – fight, 11817 Meadows Lane  
1539 – private property accident, Meijer  
1554 – private property accident, Meijer  
1740 – property damage accident, Ecorse / Belleville  
2053 – intimidation threat, 44622 Ecorse Rd.  
2107 – intimidation threat, 45915 S. I-94 Service

### Saturday, April 21:

0056 – assault & battery, 6998 Sadie Lane  
0823 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.  
1355 – suspicious situation, 13011 Ormond Dr.  
1622 – suspicious person, 6330 Western  
1623 – disturbance, 48571 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1747 – intimidation threat, 8902 Parkwood Dr.  
1934 – ATV/ORV complaint, 43899 Crowley  
1955 – juvenile complaint, 8846 Hardwood Dr.  
2136 – shots fired, Westlake  
2136 – fireworks, 8701 Belleville  
2233 – assault & battery, 43896 Stonebridge Dr.

Also on this week's log are 283 traffic stops, 26 of which were on the I-94 freeway.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, April 15:

0258 – agency assist, 48731 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1041 – malicious destruction of property, 251 Henry St.  
1140 – follow-up, 83 Potter Dr.  
1330 – vehicle lockout, 444 Main, Andrew's  
2014 – juvenile complaint, Belle Villa  
2119 – noise complaint, 229 Belle Villa  
2122 – intrusion alarm, 250 Henry St.  
2146 – assist citizen, Victory Park  
2245 – agency assist, 11587 Meadows

### Monday, April 16:

0105 – agency assist, S. I-94 Service/Water's Edge  
0142 – agency assist, Tyler/Morton Taylor  
1155 – misc. complaint, Main/Third  
1331 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.  
1345 – E-911 cellular, 373 W. Columbia Ave.  
1546 – animal complaint, 56 Wabash Ave.  
1641 – juvenile complaint, N. Liberty/Main  
2008 – fraud, 425 Breakwater Ct.  
2314 – agency assist, Rawsonville/Martz

### Tuesday, April 17:

0025 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter Rd., Co-op  
0106 – assist fire dept., 112 Carmell St.  
0847 – juvenile complaint, 6 Main St.  
0854 – all other traffic, Sumpter/South  
0909 – animal complaint, 351 Victorian Ln.  
1047 – misc. complaint, 6 Main St.  
1214 – warrant arrest, Bemis/Sumpter  
1259 – animal complaint, 68 Wabash Ave.  
1559 – welfare check, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court  
1620 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court

1754 – neighbor trouble, 55 Wabash Ave.  
1916 – suspicious situation, Main St./Third St.

### Wednesday, April 18:

0558 – assist fire dept., 76 Carmell  
0709 – vehicle lockout, 201 Henry St.  
0800 – suspicious person, 379 High St.  
0917 – civil matter, 241 Church St.  
0923 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court  
1015 – harassment call, 146 High, Johnny's  
1024 – PPO violation, 6 Main St.  
1115 – information, Third/Main  
1132 – misc. complaint, 6 Main  
1133 – misc. complaint, 6 Main  
1134 – personal injury accident, Main/Denton  
1558 – civil matter, 59 Loza Lane  
1623 – civil matter, 241 Church St.  
1658 – suspicious person, Main/First  
1834 – warrant arrest, Victory Park  
2156 – vehicle lockout, 357 Light Tower Ct.

### Thursday, April 19:

0624 – assist fire dept., 32 Menlo Park Dr.  
0711 – animal complaint, Harbour Pointe/W. Huron River Dr.  
1020 – suspicious situation, 445 Robbe St.  
1324 – assist fire dept., 106 Clarence St.  
1354 – neighbor trouble, 241 Church St.  
1633 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 167 Fourth St., library  
1723 – juvenile complaint, 995 Sumpter Rd.

### Friday, April 20:

0109 – E-911 cellular, Lakeview Tavern  
0839 – misc. complaint, 309 N. Liberty St.  
0858 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court  
1008 – larceny, 843 Sumpter Rd.  
1020 – juvenile complaint, 300 W. Davis  
1143 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 500 Robbe St.  
1223 – larceny, 369 Main St.  
1338 – traffic complaint, 151 E. Huron River Dr.  
1415 – suspicious person, W. Davis/South  
1749 – follow-up, Paula  
1908 – mental, 6 Main St.  
1922 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter Rd.  
2106 – agency assist, China King  
2108 – agency assist, 45915 S. I-94 Service Dr.

### Saturday, April 21:

0143 – intimidation threat, 176 W. Columbia Ave.  
0237 – juvenile complaint, 509 Estrada  
1123 – traffic complaint, Main/Third  
1213 – information, 6 Main  
1734 – assist fire dept., 53 N. Edgemont Ave.  
1854 – assist fire dept., 291 Henry St.  
1907 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave.

Also on this week's log are 33 traffic stops.

Dispatch log from Sumpter Township Police did not arrive in time for this weeks publication. It will be printed in next weeks issue.

## Sumpter Township Police, Fire, HVA now dispatched by Huron

As of Friday, the Huron Township Dispatch Center is providing emergency dispatch services for Sumpter Township Police, Sumpter Fire Department, and Huron Valley Ambulance calls in Sumpter.

The Sumpter Township Police Department building now is closed to the public after the normal office hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Both non-emergency phone lines will stay the same: (734) 461-6898 and (734) 461-6899. As always, residents are advised to dial 911 for emergencies only.

The 734-461-4833 number rings directly to the police department during office hours, as before.

For information on the police department, see the new web site at [www.sumpterpd.org](http://www.sumpterpd.org).

## Vawters Team

(continued from page 3)

Parks and Recreation Commission, president of the Democratic Caucus of Sumpter Township, a member of the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, and is in his fifth year serving on the Sumpter Planning Commission.

Swinson is a graduate of Belleville High School, a member of Professional Alliance of Belleville (BNI), and is Master Certified through Ford Motor Co. He graduated from Dale Carnegie, majoring in effective speaking and human relations, completed Dynamics of Personnel Leadership, and Industrial Engineering Methods programs.

Swinson's hobbies include spending time with his family, fishing, golfing, and exercising, as well as community volunteerism.

Swinson's goal for the township is to achieve unity with the board and residents of Sumpter Township to work as one.

"I am not a politician," Swinson said. "I am a citizen, just like you, looking out for the betterment of our township and our community."

## Democratic Caucuses set May 5 at Belleville, Sumpter, VBT locations

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

John Herman, president of the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club, reminds fellow Democrats that Michigan's Democratic Caucuses will take place beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 5.

In Belleville, the caucus will be held at Victory Station at Victory Park and will be chaired by Vera Howell.

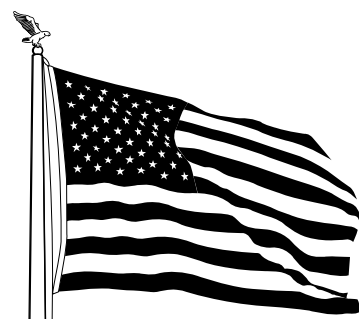
In Sumpter Township, the caucus will be held at the Sumpter Township Community Center and will be chaired by Deb Chamberlain.

In Van Buren Township it will be at the Wayne County Fairgrounds with Herman in charge.

He said anyone in line by 11 a.m. can register to vote and IDs are required. He said forms, provided by the Michigan Democratic Party, must be filled out completely.

Herman said President Barack Obama is unopposed on the caucus ballot.

Michigan delegates to the Democratic National Convention will be based on the total vote for each Presidential candidate from caucus sites. The national convention will be held Sept. 3-7 in Charlotte, N.C.





# Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



**Zywicki Greenhouses** on Willow Road just east of Rawsonville Road is opening for the season this Saturday. Owner **Donald Zywicki** and family have been wholesale growers of plants and flowers for more than 50 years and have been open to the public a few years ago. Choose from flats, planters, bedding plants, hanging baskets, window boxes, roses, and much more. More than 24 varieties of tomato plants and other vegetable plants are available, seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Call (734) 461-6197 or visit [www.zywickigreenhouse.com](http://www.zywickigreenhouse.com).

**Robson Greenhouses** is also open for the season on Haggerty Road just north of Tyler Road. Since 1929, current owners **Arleen** and **Lynn Robson** and family are carrying on the tradition and experience in the field. Choose from annuals, vegetables, specialty plants, hanging baskets, posey bags, and patio plants. They're open seven days a week at 8 a.m. Don't forget Mom on Mother's Day; it's May 13. Call (734) 397-2252 or visit [www.robsonflowers.com](http://www.robsonflowers.com).

**Dr. Lee Sowle** and **Main Street Chiropractic of Belleville** have moved down the street to **247 Man Street** in Belleville, next to Jet's Pizza. Call (734) 699-6600 or visit [www.welldoctor.info](http://www.welldoctor.info).

**Bladez Hair Salon** on Huron River Drive in Belleville welcomes **Sue Smith** formerly of Denny's Salon. Smith joins **Nancy Thiel** offering specials for first-time clients including women's cuts for just \$13 and men's cuts for \$8. Simply bring in their ad from today's paper. Owner **Louise Fincher** and staff are offering sweet deals on shellac nails, mani/pedis, and other services. Bladez also welcomes bridal parties, too. Walk-ins are accepted and appointments can be made by calling (734) 697-5600. Visit them on Facebook for other online deals and at [www.bladezhairstudio.com](http://www.bladezhairstudio.com).

An Old Memory Tour of Belleville High School will take place this Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m.-12 noon. The tour is free. The school will be demolished in June, shortly after the students leave for summer vacation.

A Pre-Mother's Day Extravaganza event is taking place this Saturday at the **Flagstar Bank** on Belleville Road at Michigan Ave. Hosted by **Mary Kay**, the event will feature consulting and makeup by **Shanta**, **Gina Criaris Photography**, and **Sentsy by Kristi**, offering oils, candles, fragrances. Call (734) 502-5099.

The *Independent* announces our latest advertising promotion featuring free color to customers who double the size of their ad for or during the month of May, starting

with next week's issue, May 3. New and renewing display ads must be published a minimum of 4 printings in order to receive the color. So, in addition of getting four ad weeks for the price of three, you'll get free color, too, just for upsizing. To learn more call me at (734) 699-9020.

*Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.*

## Belleville Cougars Football holding open registration May 5-6

The Belleville Cougars Youth Football League is holding open registration for the upcoming fall season on Saturday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, May 6, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Van Buren

Township Hall on Tyler Road.

Experienced cheerleading coaches are also needed.

For information and what to bring to register: [www.bellevillecougars.com](http://www.bellevillecougars.com).

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# School Board

(continued from page 16)

relocating. Retiring are Judith Baker, Kathy Bemis, and Sally Coughlin. Christine Dabrowski was listed as "released".

Susan Fleming, who was the principal of Elwell Elementary, resigned from being an administrator since her building closed. She is rejoining the teacher unit.

Support Staff layoffs are Nathan Antieau, Denise Armatis, Paula Brown, Brenda Elliott, Tammie Harris, Cindy Hayes, Jacqueline Johnson, Inez Kieselbach, Jack Loria, Dolores Nedeau, and Jeanne Riley.

In addition, retiring Support Staff are Carol Binert, Henry Heuser, Kathy Kovach, and Patricia Smith.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Approved new, two-tier school starting times for the 2012-13 school year. North Middle School (7/8) and BHS will both start at 7:40 a.m. and end at 2:47 p.m. South Middle School (5/6) and all elementary schools will start at 8:45 a.m. and end at 3:52 p.m. Ending times may be adjusted before school starts;

- Approved using K.C. Childcare to provide a latchkey program for the four elementary schools and the 5/6 grade building starting this fall and running three years, through the 2014-15 school year;

- Approved the minutes of a special meeting on March 29, where two female BHS students were scheduled for separate disciplinary hearings, but the students and their parents failed to show up. The board expelled them both for 180 school days for "physical assault of a school employee, volunteer or contractor";

- Approved the first reading of the district-wide Vision, Mission and Belief statements;

- Approved increasing the academic requirements for athletes from 1.67 (C-) to 2.0 (C) on a 4.0 scale to encourage higher levels of learning for students and to emphasize they are *student athletes* not *athlete students*, according to Van Tassel, who said he would like to raise the requirement higher in the future;

- Approved the first reading of a revision to the recently revised board policy on Professional Staff Discipline that Van Tassel said clashes with state law. The policy says all matters that could involve teacher discharge or suspension over 14 days (up from the previous 3 days) must be dealt in accordance with the Teacher Tenure Act. He said the board doesn't want to have public hearings for every discipline, if the employee doesn't want the publicity of a public meeting;

- Approved setting a special board meeting for 7 p.m. Monday, April 30,

at the administration building for the second readings and adoptions of the staff discipline change and the district mission statement. There also will be a workshop session to discuss the upcoming Quality Assurance Review of the district. Another meeting will be held at 3 p.m., May 9, to get feedback on the QAR review to find out the district's rating;

- Was informed of nine field change orders for the new BHS approved by the superintendent, including \$11,863 to provide power for the media center power shades and \$4,527 for temperature controls for the pool water; and

- Approved bids for \$335,301.99 in classroom technology, including Data Image Systems, \$72,699 for projectors; Troxell Communications, \$13,439 for projection screens; SPI Innovations, \$205,063.99 for Interactive Devices; and City Animations, \$44,100 for document cameras.

## Boys & Girls Club honors 39 members with Leadership Awards

On April 18, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan – Richard and Patricia Donahey Club honored 39 members at its annual Leadership Awards Dinner.

The award is based on outstanding development demonstrated through participation, citizenship, cooperation, sportsmanship, progress, achievements, and service to the community.

Johnny's on the Lake Sports Bar and Grill received the club's Community Service award and Michelle Briegel, principal of Edgemont Elementary School, received the Volunteer of the Year award.

Those receiving Leadership Awards were: Raine Ahargee, Arielle Bartholomew, Kevin Bartholomew, Austin Conley, Sanaa Douglas, Abigail Emerson, Alec Emerson, Samantha Evans, Carrington Harris, Kamara Heath, Caleb Henderson, Zandalee Henderson, \*Jennifer Henry, Jordan Jackson, \*Jaila Johnson, \*Trevor Jones, \*Alex Kole, Andrew Leamy, Nia Massey, Hailey McCloskey, Miranda McCloskey, Justin Miller-Terhune, Kaitlyn Plummer, Kennedy Plummer, \*Alexandria Ragland, Temara Ragland, Shayna Roberts, \*Ajiah Rodgers, Darius Savage, \*Brittiany Small, Joel Smith, Nick Sturtz, Sarah Sturtz, Ta'Nae Troupe, Eliza Williams, Taylor Williams, Josiah Yoder, Madison Yoder, and Regan-Ayricka Young. (\* Denotes Youth of the Month recipient.)



## Ask Angela

By Angela Nettro

**Question from Richard in Westland:** I bought a second home for my daughter to live in a few years ago. She was paying the payments on the mortgage. She moved out of the home recently and I cannot afford the payments with my own house payment. I do not want to get into renting it. Can I sell this second home on a short sale, even though I do not live in it?

**Answer:** YES. You can sell it on a short sale if your financial situation does not provide enough income for you to pay a second mortgage, thus creating a hardship. The process of the short sale will require you to substantiate your income and monthly debts as well as assets to your mortgage lender. This includes providing tax returns, bank statements, income verification and other information from you to approve the short sale hardship you have.

You should talk with your bank to let them know that you are wanting to do a short sale and also you will need to contact a Realtor who does short sales, and will work with you and your lender to initiate the paperwork needed on your behalf to complete the procedure of the short sale.

Please understand that the short sale can take some months to be approved. Good Luck.

-- Angela

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## April/May Birthdays

April 4 – Luke Willick  
April 6 – Madison Buxton  
April 10 – Paul Cartwright, Jr.  
April 24 – Chelsea Carchio  
April 24 – Seth Willick (born Tuesday)  
April 25 – Shelly A. Brown-Willick  
April 29 – Gary Koeppe  
April 30 – Ginny Guerin  
May 1 – Jennifer Niemann-Genimatas

Do you have a birthday in May? Does anyone you know have a May birthday? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

## Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan  
Animals Rescue

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**Kiki** is our resident social butterfly and with a name like **Kiki** how could she not be! She just loves, loves, loves attention and looks forward to visits from her people friends. Of course everyone is her friend, who wouldn't want to be friends with this loving girl? Give her a lap to sit on and be petted from and she's in kitty heaven. **Kiki** is most certainly a cat that will need attention and has no problem asking for it if you get forgetful. She's also a very pretty young girl with a blend of white, brown and black coloring that includes a super cute smudge of color on her nose. She does well with other cats and would do fine in a single or multi-cat household just as long as she gets her fill of the attention given out. **Kiki** is spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Call today to meet this super affectionate sweetie and you're sure to get as much love from her as you'll ever need. **734 461-9458**

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## Re-Elect Van Buren Township Trustee Denise Partridge

Long-time resident of Van Buren Township seeks to remain in public service. Denise has been a resident of Van Buren Township Quirk Subdivision since 1976. Denise was a Van Buren Township employee, mostly in the Treasurer's Office, for more than 30 years. She and her husband Steve have a blended family of five sons, five grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

Board Representative to the following Commissions and Memberships, and Volunteer Work:

- VBT Water-Sewer Commission
- Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club
- VBT September Days Senior Endowment Committee
- Michigan Democratic Party (MDP)
- VBT Cultural Advisory Committee (organizer)
- Belleville-Area Council for the Arts (Recording Secretary)
- VBT September Days Senior Center
- VBT Negotiation Committee (AFSCME Contract)
- Former Tri-Community Library Board
- Belleville-Area Historical Society
- Belleville-Area Museum (Front Desk and Archives)
- Quirk Sub Concern Committee
- VBT Recreation Committee Liaison from the Cultural Advisory Committee

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